

unofficial documents such as deeds, leases, agreements, wills, and so on. The object of this service is primarily to afford United States citizens and interests the means of preserving, in official custody, records of their business and other transactions where other suitable facilities are not available locally for making such records. The recording of unofficial documents is not a notarial service, strictly speaking; however, the certifying of copies of documents thus recorded is a notarial service.

(b) *Recording procedure.* Generally, before accepting a document for recording the consular officer should require satisfactory proof of its genuineness. The document should be copied, word for word, in the Miscellaneous Record Book. At the close of the record a statement that it is a true copy of the original should be entered and signed by the consular officer who copies or compares the record. In the margin of the first page where the document is recorded, the consular officer should note the following data:

(1) By whom the document is presented for recording;

(2) On whose behalf the service is requested;

(3) Date and hour of presentation for recording;

(4) How the authenticity of the document was proved (where appropriate); and

(5) The name of the person by whom recorded (in his proper signature) and the name of the consular officer with whom compared (in his proper signature).

(c) *Certificate of recording.* Ordinarily, a certificate of recording need not be issued. The original document may simply be endorsed: "Recorded at (name and location of consular office) this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, in (here insert appropriate reference to volume of Miscellaneous Record Book)". Below the endorsement should appear the notation regarding the service number, the Tariff item number, and the amount of the fee collected. When a certificate of recording is requested, the consular officer may issue it, if he sees fit to do so. The certificate may be either entered on the document, if space permits, or ap-

pendent to the document as a separate sheet in the manner prescribed in § 92.17.

(d) *Fees.* The fee for recording unofficial documents at a Foreign Service post is as prescribed under the caption "Copying and Recording" of the Tariff of Fees, Foreign Service of the United States of America (§ 22.1 of this chapter). For purposes of assessment of fees, the issuance of certificates of recording, when requested, shall be regarded as part of the consular service of recording unofficial documents, and no separate fee shall be charged for the certificate.

#### § 92.78 Translating documents.

Officers of the Foreign Service are not authorized to translate documents or to certify to the correctness of translations. (However, see § 92.56 with regard to interpreting and translating services which may be performed in connection with depositions.) They are authorized to administer to a translator an oath as to the correctness of a translation; to take an acknowledgment of the preparation of a translation; and to authenticate the seal and signature of a local official affixed to a translation. Separate fees should be charged for each of these services, as indicated under the caption "Notarial Services and Authentications" of the Tariff of Fees, Foreign Service of the United States of America (§ 22.1 of this chapter).

#### § 92.79 Procuring copies of foreign public documents.

(a) *Nature of services.* When requested to do so by United States citizens or by persons acting in behalf of United States citizens, a consular officer should endeavor to obtain from foreign officials copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates, or copies of other public records such as divorce decrees, probated wills, and so on. The interest of the party requesting the document should be clearly indicated, and there should be good reason for asking for the consular officer's assistance. Persons requesting documents for use in the preparation of family trees or in the compilation of genealogical studies should be referred to a local attorney